

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ILO - GB COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM, FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION

1. FIRST TWO DAYS OF PF&A COMMITTEE DEALT SOLELY WITH IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS. MOST GOVERNMENT DELS USED OPPORTUNITY SIMPLY TO REITERATE THEIR RESPONSES TO THE ORIGINAL ILO QUESTIONNAIRE SENT GOVERNMENTS IN 1974. WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS ADDED ONLY GENERAL COMMENTS. ON FEB 25, OFFICE WILL SUBMIT BRIEF DOCUMENT TO COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION. THIS DOCUMENT WILL SUMMARIZE THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT REACHED BY COMMITTEE ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

2. USSR PROPOSED LISTING MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE NOT ADOPTED A "SUFFICIENT NUMBER" OF CONVENTIONS AND DENYING THEM PARTICIPATION ON CONFERENCE'S COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. SEVERAL WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELS INDICATED MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WAS NOT WHETHER CONVENTIONS HAD BEEN ADOPTED, BUT WHETHER A MEMBER STATE OBSERVED THESE STANDARDS IRRESPECTIVE OF ADOPTION. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ARGUED, MANY NATIONS HAD ADOPTED IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS BUT DID NOT APPLY THE STANDARDS. US GOVERNMENT AND WORKER REPS RESPONDED IN FULL TO USSR REMARKS EXPLAINING USG'S NON-RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS (BECAUSE OF OUR FEDERAL STRUCTURE) AND CRITICIZING "CERTAIN COUNTRIES"

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WHO VIOLATE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS EVEN

AFTER RATIFYING CONVENTIONS.

3. FEB 20 WAS SPENT ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. DURING DISCUSSION OF ARREARAGES, PLAND (UK WORKER) ASKED IF GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE IN ARREARS COULD INDICATE THEIR INTENTIONS ABOUT PAYING. GOVERNMENT REPS OF THE UK, JAPAN AND IRAN INDICATED SPECIFIC DATES WHEN THEIR PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE. USG REP REPLIED THAT FUNDS FOR HALF OF 1975 AND ALL OF 1976 ASSESSMENTS HAD BEEN REQUESTED IN THE BUDGET NOW BEFORE CONGRESS AND THAT HEARINGS IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE WERE SCHEDULED FOR FEB, MARCH AND APRIL. HOWEVER, SINCE CONGRESS IS AN INDEPENDENT BODY, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR USG REP TO COMMENT ON WHEN IT WAS LIKELY THAT CONGRESS WOULD COMPLETE ITS WORK ON THE BUDGET, ALTHOUGH USG REP HOPED THAT PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE PROMPTLY.

4. OTHER MAJOR SUBJECT WAS PROPOSED ILO GENERAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASE, BASED ON OUTSIDE CONSULTANT'S STUDY OF UN GENERAL SERVICES PERSONNEL IN GENEVA. COMMITTEE DISCUSSED ISSUE IN GREAT DETAIL BUT AGREED TO LEAVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHO STATED STUDY WILL BE USED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS BUT NEEDS TO BE "REFINED AND INTERPRETED" BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE REACHED. HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE IN MAY.

5. STAFF UNION REP, IN HIS PRESENTATION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM ILO AND THAT WORK OF ILO OFFICE WOULD BE SO VALUABLE THAT ILO MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE FOR ALL COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE URGED DG TO BEGIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING TO DEAL WITH POSSIBILITY OF US WITHDRAWAL, TO AVOID CRISIS IN EMPLOYMENT.

6. WHEN UNDP WAS DISCUSSED, DG PRAISED BRADFORD MORSE HIGHLY AND SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN ILO AND UNDP WOULD IMPROVE BECAUSE OF MORSE'S HIGH CAPABILITIES. HE NOTED THAT UNDP FINANCIAL CRISIS MIGHT CAUSE TERMINATION OF 200 TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN 1976 OR 1977, UNLESS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED. DALE

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